

CT DEEP **2017**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 27
10/12/2017



Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)



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INLAND REPORT

Fall TROUT and ATLANTIC SALMON Stockings- This week we began our 2017 stockings of broodstock **Atlantic Salmon**. **Mount Tom Pond** (115 fish) and **Crystal Lake** (Ellington) (115 fish) on Wednesday, 10/11, and the **Shetucket River** (230 fish) was stocked on Thursday, October 12. The upper **Naugatuck River** broodstock area is scheduled to be stocked on Friday, 10/13.

Trout stockings continued this week (see Lakes & Ponds and Rivers & Streams sections below for locations). (Hamden) TMA, Hockanum River TMA, Highland Lake, East Twin Lake, Stay up to date with our daily stocking post on [Facebook](#), our [interactive trout stocking map](#), and our [stocking report](#).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Improving quickly with re-start of fall stocking. Here is this week’s stocking list: **Highland Lake** and **East Twin Lake**, both in the west.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS. Conditions for trout fishing are improving out of the poor conditions earlier this fall. Flows are variable across the State- *see stream flow graphic on page 4*). This week the **Hockanum River TMA**, **Shetucket River**, **Sleeping Giant TMA**, and the **Naugatuck River TMA** were stocked. For the latest information on what has been stocked, follow our daily posts on [Facebook Page](#) or [Twitter Page](#), view our [current stocking report](#), or check out the [interactive trout stocking map](#).

Farmington River – Fishing remains very good. The West Branch flows are clear and lower than typical for late September (currently 64.2 CFS at Riverton, with the Still River at 22 CFS). Morning water temperatures are ranging from the mid to upper 50’s °F through New Hartford (and into the upper 60’s °F farther downstream).

Hatches/patterns time to go to the fall patterns. Some go-to flies include *Isonychia* (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), and Rusty Spinner (#14-20, mornings). White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers. Bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare’s ear (#8-20) works well.

Housatonic River – Fishing has been very good. The flows are low but offering good fishing (and wading), currently 300 CFS at Falls Village and 415 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are in the upper 50’s °F. With the weather forecast to be more fall-like, this weekend is perfect to take in the change in foliage out on the scenic “Housy”.

Hatches/patterns include a good diversity of insects. Patterns to try include **Blue Wing Olive** (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-24) and caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Also try terrestrial patterns such as Black and Cinnamon Ants (#16-18, midday, when breezy) and large streamers, or nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies is usually productive. Streamer patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers (#2-12), Muddlers, Lion Buggers, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), Isonychia (#10-12), Sulfur (#16-18) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening).

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as good. Places where the largemouth are eager to bite include East Twin Lake, Gardner Lake, Pickerel Lake, Beseck Lake, Amos Lake, Beach Pond, Highland Lake, Seymour Reservoir #4, Crystal Lake, Mudge Pond, West Side Pond, Tyler Lake, Dog Pond, Hatch Pond, Park Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Lake Saltonstall, Bishop Swamp, Winchester Lake, Congamond Lakes, Quinebaug Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Burr Pond, Griggs Pond, Anderson Pond, Billings Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Aspinook Pond, Babcock Pond, Pachaug Pond, Lake Hayward, Quonnipaug Lake, Rogers Lake and Stillwater Pond.

Tournament angler reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair, 3.49 lb lunger), Bashan Lake (fair to good considering the bright skies, 3.09 lb lunger), Gardner Lake (fair to good, fish averaged just over only 1 lb apiece, with a 2.33 lb lunger), Rogers Lake (good, 2.81 lb lunger), Wyassup Lake (fair to good, 2.18 lb lunger) and Candlewood Lake (fair for largemouth)

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Catches reported from Candlewood Lake, Housatonic River (upper), Naugatuck River, Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. Housatonic River smallmouth fishing has been good. **Tournament angler reports** are from from Aspinook Pond (a few), Bashan Lake (one caught, 1.21 lbs) and Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 4 lb lunger).

NORTHERN PIKE. A few reports of medium-sized pike here and there. Best bets include the Connecticut River, Lake Lillinonah, and Bantam Lake.

CARP are providing solid and consistent action in the Housatonic River Impoundments, West Thompson Reservoir, Batterson Park Pond, CT River/Mattabesset River, and the Quinebaug River (West Thompson and Aspinook Pond).

WALLEYE. An upswing in reports this week with the go to spot being Squantz Pond. Some real decent fish reported from the Saugatuck Reservoir. Other waters for walleye include Mount Tom Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Beach Pond, Cedar Lake, Gardner Lake, and Mashapaug Lake.

CATFISH. Fishing is very good with the warm weather keeping some of the monster cats active. Cast a line into our [Catfish Management Lakes](#) and [Community Fishing Waters](#). Try cut fish (mackerel) or live shiners to entice a cat to bite.

PANFISH are still a great bet. Calico Bass should be picking up a bit with some decent fish from the CT River Coves.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. BLACK CRAPPIE action is improving in the coves up and down the river. Target the backwaters with small shiners, silver grubs, or small Rapalas. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** have been reported as hit or miss in from Hartford upstream. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught (but you have to work for them) in the Hartford to Haddam area. **CARP** are providing action in coves and in the mainstem, especially Salmon River Cove and the Middletown area. **BOWFIN** can be found in backwater areas with dense weeds especially in Keeney Cove, Crow Point Pond, and Chapman's Cove. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported as good in the main stem and coves.



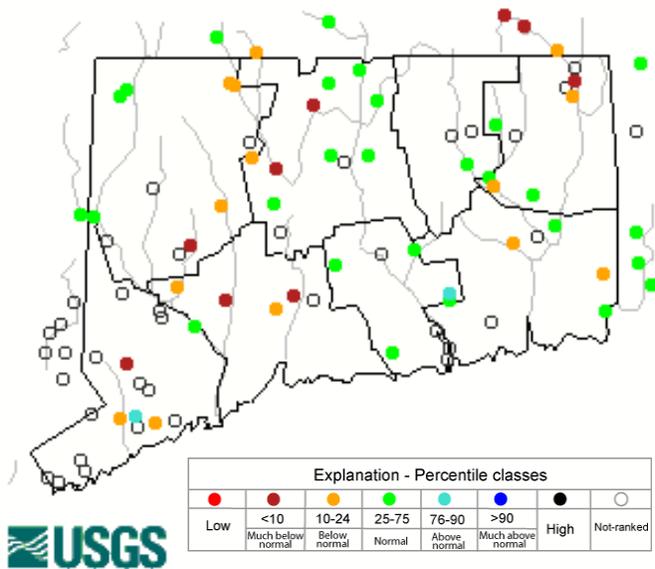
A “mirror” carp that was observed during routine monitoring of the fish population in the Connecticut River this week.

Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Areas” is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Area”, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the “Campville Section” of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the “Beacon Falls Section” of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2017 CT Angler’s Guide for trout regulations).

Stream flow conditions

Thursday, October 12, 2017 12:30ET



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt> A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

“Connecticut is Fishy!”

a new interactive fishing resource for novice and expert alike. The link is on our main page at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing or hit it directly at <http://ctdeep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=a17906f58b594e118555d48bf999b51c>

We are fortunate that within a 60 minute drive you can be fly fishing the famed Housatonic or Farmington River, catching monster pike in Bantam Lake, jumbo carp from the Connecticut River, or on the Sound fishing for tasty favorites like fluke, porgy, black sea bass, striped bass and bluefish.

This NEW interactive application has lots of great information, including maps and links, providing all you need to know about Connecticut's fisheries.

Give it a spin and let us know what you think!



LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



NOTES & NOTICES:

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (boat launches). Boaters using the Lattins Cove launch should take extra care. The launch ramp is damaged, with the bottom of the ramp broken up and a large drop off. Plans for repairs are in process and a sign is being posted to mark the end of the ramp surface. **Backing down beyond that sign is not recommended at this time.** The lake level is also down close to the minimum “summer” level, at which launching of trailered boats (especially larger boats) becomes more difficult (but usually still doable) at Lattins Cove. The Squantz Cove state launch is fully functional.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (safety buoy removals). The Candlewood Lake Authority has begun removing the hazard, navigation and speed buoys for the winter. Boaters, especially those unfamiliar with the lake should use extra caution out on the lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). Last year hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **There are now reports of plants found at other locations along the river including Wethersfield and Crow Point coves and at a site in Enfield.** See the Coventry Lake entry below for what river users should do to prevent spread of this invasive plant to other waterbodies.

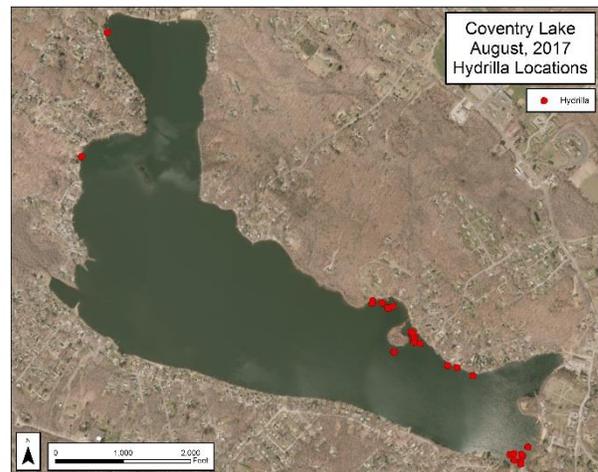
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

LAKE HOUSATONIC (drawdown). The drawdown scheduled to begin this week has been extend and is now scheduled to end **October 17**. The lake is being drawn down three feet for maintenance. Launching trailered boats from the state boat launch will be very difficult to impossible.

PACHAUG POND (drawdown). A 3.5-foot drawdown to facilitate dam maintenance is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, October 10.

SILVER LAKE (Berlin-Meriden, canoe/kayak races). A canoe/kayak race event is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th, from 10:00 am through 12:30 pm. Boaters should use extra caution during the event (the course laps the lake). Although this event will be using the state boat launch on Silver Lake, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake.

WEST HILL POND (drawdown). A 5-foot drawdown is ongoing to facilitate dam maintenance.



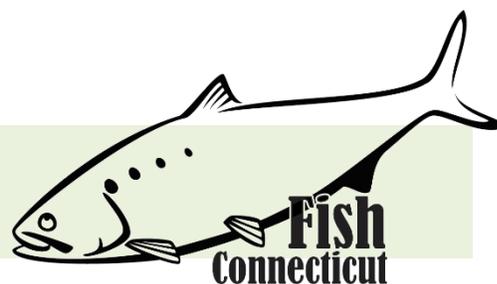
Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake) boaters should avoid the areas noted with red dots to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.

PHOTO CONTEST: Do you have the next Angler’s Guide cover shot? Email us your high quality (high resolution) photos **by November 1** to Deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov and include [photo contest](#) in the subject line.

CT FISHIN' TIPS is our monthly e-newsletter dedicated to providing information, tips and pointers about fishing in Connecticut. Get CT Fishin' Tips delivered automatically to your in box by subscribing at www.ct.gov/deep/newslettersubscription

NEW! Youth Fishing Passport [Fishing Challenge Scorecard](#): Download the new scorecard for your Youth Fishing Passport Holder on the program web page at www.ct.gov/deep/yfp. Top anglers will receive a great prize pack of fishing gear.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are around 70 °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound. Anglers please note: Though Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

WHALES have been reported in Long Island Sound (in early July, juvenile humpback whales have been spotted on the New York side of the sound), please see check [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#).

Note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

SEA TURTLES: [See a Tangled Turtle? Call the Hotline!](#) 1-860-572-5955 ext. 107. This is the time of year when leatherback, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles return to northern waters, with many sightings around Long Island Sound.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY is fantastic! Schools from Watch Hill to Greenwich. We cannot promise they will be in a specific area because the schools move quickly chasing bait; you will have to watch for birds dive-bombing. However, several anglers have been rewarded this week by fishing from these consistent Albie populated areas: Cockenoe Island, Sunken Island, the Cows, Plum Gut, Montauk Point, Hatchet Reef, Bartlett Reef, Long Beach in Stratford, Compo Beach, Ocean Beach, McCook Beach, Todd's Point and Seaside Park. Albie Snacks, Deadly Dicks, Sluggos and Epoxy Lures are all still very effective. Remember False Albacore have small mouths; a 29" Rapala Firetiger is not going to work, so stick to 3" - 6" lures, and hold on tight!

STRIPED BASS schools with **BLUEFISH** mixed in are in from Greenwich to Stonington. The bite at Montauk is on fire and Stripers are smashing Atlantic Menhaden (Bunker). Schools of bass and blues (to 20 pounds) are frequenting the Middle Ground Passage, the Race to Tuna Alley, Cranes Reef, Todds Point, Plum Gut, the Norwalk Islands, Greens Ledge Lighthouse and Seaside Park. Schools of Bluefish are blitzing off Hammonasset, Calf Pasture Beach, Rocky Neck State Park, Silver Sands State Park, Charles Island and Sandy Point in West Haven, Black Rock Harbor, Rowayton's Five Mile River, the Norwalk Islands, Milford Harbor and Chaffinch Island. Live-lining American Eels and bunker, or using very fresh eels or bunker will bring you success. You do not need a boat to land a Bluefish or Striped Bass this week. Striped Bass to 45 pounds have been feeding in shallow water. They have been running in the rivers, especially the river mouths. The Housatonic River (Housy) is red hot with schoolies flooding the shores. Top-water plugs and live-lining eels have been most successful at the mouth of the rivers for schoolies. In addition, soft plastics closer to shore and further up river will give you your best chance of having a terrific day of fishing. Connecticut River fishers are reeling 'em in this week and wearing out their arms. Important to note that the consensus is in - the west side of the Connecticut River is holding more "cow" Stripers on the bite than the east side.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP are still around - here in Long Island Sound we have water temperatures in the upper 60's Fahrenheit. Black Sea Bass in the 4 to 4 1/2 pound class have been running in deeper water this week (100' - 120'). Dinner-sized Scup have been hitting the reefs. Scup, frequently mixed in with Black Sea Bass are still everywhere. This week Black Sea Bass are preferring whole baits; whole squids and whole clams on a high-low rig. Scup have been preferring bite-sized clams. Bartlett's Reef and the #4 red nun buoy, Old Lyme's Soundview Beach, Cini Park, and Harkness Memorial State Park are all still holding plenty of fish. Other excellent shore and boat spots this week include Gulf Beach Breakwater, New Haven Harbor, Fort Nathan Hale, Seaside Park, Todd's Point (West side facing NYC skyline), Shippan Point, Greenwich Town Dock (fish from the edge of the parking lot) Hammonasset State Park, Sherwood Island State Park, Calf Pasture Beach, South Benson Pier/Ash Creek, Jennings Beach, Saint Mary's by the Sea, Pleasure Beach Family Pier, Pennfield Reef, Short and Long Beach in Stratford, the Stratford Wall and Walnut Beach, Groton's Eastern Point Beach, Avery Point Pier and Fort Trumbull State Park.

Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating "Reef Slammers". Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

HICKORY SHAD fishing still fairly good in the rivers (incoming tide). Effective Shad fishing at the time you are reading this report can be found at Fort Trumbull, Black Hall, Lieutenant River and the Connecticut River at DEEP Marine Headquarters during the out-going tide. Your best bet is to throw in a Willow Leaf lure, a small jig or a Shad Dart. If you are really motivated, rig two in tandem!

BLUE CRAB fishing is good. **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Legal gear types include scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland style crab traps are prohibited. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle dip net) and a small circular crab trap is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#)

TAUTOG This past Tuesday, October 10, was opening day of TAUTOG season. Unfortunately there are not many reports as of yet because everyone is out there chasing False Albacore. But 2 anglers did check-in at a New London County Bait and Tackle shop early Tuesday morning with their limit, and they weren't out fishing very long, so the season looks very promising. Tautog (Blackfish) fanatics like to dunk a Green, Asian Shore or Hermit Crab in 6' - 30' feet this time of year, using a jig with a 1/4 to 1 ounce weight tipped with the bait (crab). October hot spots include just south of Two Tree Island and the three breakwaters at the entrance to New Haven Harbor. You will find Blackfish meandering around rocky reefs, old wrecks and rock outcroppings feeding voraciously. They are easily distinguishable by their stout bodies, large lips and protruding teeth, which function in part as a tool to pry mussels off rocks. Connecticut regulations stipulate that a kept Tautog must be 16" in length - 4 fish per angler per day. The World Record for largest Blackfish taken by rod-n-reel is 28.8 pounds. The Connecticut State record is 26.6 pounds (caught off Two Tree Island). Consider fishing aboard one of Connecticut's wonderful party boats this fall. After all, the record Tautog was caught while onboard one of our local party boats.

FISHING FOR A LAUGH?

Where do fish keep their money? In a river bank.

How do you communicate with a fish? Drop it a line.

Which fish can perform an operation? A Sturgeon.

NOTABLE CATCHES –

Species	 Length (in.)	Weight (lb)	Angler
Bluefish	40.0"	20 lbs	Joseph Stephens
Blue Crab	7.75"	1.2 lbs	Liam Celic

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2017 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information is on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

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